

HARKIN, and Mr. CHAMBLISS, to be conferees on the part of the Senate.

OILY APOCALYPSE OR GREEN WAVE?

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. We are now in the 36th day of a man-made environmental disaster which is fast becoming an ecological apocalypse for countless species of marine life. The ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico cannot survive wave and wave of toxic substances hitting the beaches.

The ultimate surprise is not that it happened. Oil companies, Democratic and Republican administrations, refused responsibility and rejected alternatives. In this privatization of the natural world, damage to sea life is the cost of doing business. The ultimate horror is that we can't stop the flood of oil, won't stop consumption of oil products, and fail to admit the limits of technology.

This is a morality play writ large as environmental collapse becomes the new normal. Can we realistically look to Washington alone to protect the natural world? More permits for offshore drilling have been issued. We must look to the consequences of our own demand and consumption: the energy we use, the kind of cars we drive, the products we buy, the food we eat, and our individual impact on the natural world.

We can seize this moment. We as individuals can begin a green wave of sustainability to save the planet and ourselves.

WHERE'S THE BUDGET?

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, back in my beloved Indiana and all across this country, families are hurting. This is a difficult time in the life of our economy. Families are sitting down and making hard choices. They are writing a family budget. Small businesses and family farmers are doing the same, sitting down, sharpening their pencils, and making the tough choices to keep the doors open and the lights on. They are doing that everywhere but in Washington, D.C.

The American people deserve to know that this Democrat majority has not produced a budget. For the first time since the adoption of the Budget Act, the House of Representatives has decided to abandon its responsibility to sit down and write a budget. It's truly extraordinary.

The chairman of the Budget Committee, the distinguished gentleman JOHN SPRATT, said famously, "If you can't budget, you can't govern." Well, by abdicating their responsibility to sit down and make the hard choices, this

majority is arguing that they in and of themselves cannot govern, they are unwilling to govern. The American people deserve leadership in the Congress that is as good as our families and our small businesses. They deserve a Congress that writes a budget.

Mr. Speaker, where's the budget?

ADDING THE CREST OF MONTEZUMA TO THE CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST

(Mr. HEINRICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, central New Mexico has been flanked by the majesty of the Sandia and Manzano Mountain ranges for thousands of years. Most of these mountains have been preserved as part of the Cibola National Forest, the Sandia Mountains Wilderness, and the Manzano Mountains Wilderness.

Today I am introducing legislation that would add the Crest of Montezuma to the north end of the Cibola National Forest and extend a wilderness designation to the Manzano Wilderness Study Area to the south. To families living near Placitas, this legislation will ensure their access to critical water infrastructure for farm irrigation and other important uses. It will also ensure that East Mountain families can use these places for recreation. Finally, it will preserve the area's critical role as a wildlife corridor for animals that migrate from north to south across our State.

I urge my colleagues support this legislation that will protect some of the greatest natural assets that make our State the Land of Enchantment.

FAILURE TO PASS A BUDGET RESOLUTION

(Mr. CANTOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

MR. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, not since 1974, when Richard Nixon resigned from office and Happy Days was the new hit show on ABC, has this House failed to pass a budget resolution. There is no doubt that passing a budget can be hard work. But just because something is hard work doesn't mean you don't have to deal with it. Our constituents did not elect us to make easy decisions; they elected us to make the hard ones.

Two weeks ago, House Republicans unveiled the YouCut program. So far, more than 500,000 votes have been cast. Leading the field this week by wide margins, with 40 percent of the votes, is a proposal to eliminate the next round of nonmilitary Federal employee pay raises.

As USA Today recently reported, Federal salaries are significantly outpacing their counterparts in the private sector. This vote won't be easy for everyone, but it is exactly the kind of choice we must begin to make to get us off the path towards financial ruin.

290,000 STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, the most recent report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed that the economy has taken another 290,000 steps in the right direction. Two hundred ninety thousand, that's how many jobs the economy added in the month of April. This comes on top of the 230,000 jobs added in March.

According to Commissioner Keith Hall from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are now numerous bright spots, the trend is encouraging, and the growth is widespread. The growing consensus is that the economy is steadily improving, and that the private sector will continue hiring. This real possibility of hope on the job front is one of the reasons that an additional 800,000 people entered the labor force last month.

As you can see from this chart, the declining red is the number of jobs lost in the prior administration. The blue shows the jobs and the trend in the right direction, showing that policy does matter. This V chart is not for victory, but it certainly shows that we are moving in the right direction. There is now reason to hope, and there is real progress on the jobs front.

PASS THE U.S.-SOUTH KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Our friend from Columbus, Indiana, the distinguished conference chairman, said it perfectly when he talked about the challenges that families are facing across the country in trying to put together their own budgets. He also pointed out the fact that for the first time in history since the implementation of the 1974 Budget and Impoundment Act, we have seen no budget provided from Washington, D.C. Well, Mr. Speaker, it's not surprising that that has been the case.

How can you put together a roadmap of where it is you are going when you have no idea where you are going? And that's really where we are today.

I am happy to say that we have a wide range of very positive proposals that we have put forward. Our whip just talked about the YouCut program. There are lots of things that we need to do. Tragically, today we are dealing with very anemic job creation and economic growth, and there is something that we can do that will help deal with national security as well, and that is the challenge of destabilization of the Korean Peninsula.

Mr. Speaker, if we were to have the President send to us immediately the U.S.-South Korea Free Trade Agreement, we could implement the largest